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RELEASED IN PART  
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ACTION ARA-01

|      |        |         |        |         |         |         |         |
|------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | AMAD-01 | CA-02  | CIAE-00 | DODE-00 | DS-00   | INRE-00 |
|      | INR-01 | L-03    | ADS-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OCS-06  | PA-02   |
|      | PRS-01 | SCT-03  | SP-01  | SSO-00  | SS-01   | USIE-00 | /022W   |

-----0C855A 071434Z /43

O 071349Z FEB 92  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8124  
INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO

UNCLAS CARACAS 01282

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, VE [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: AMCIT CAUGHT IN COUP CROSSFIRE

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REFS: CARACAS 1153, 1100, 1099, AND 1095

1. AS REPORTED IN CARACAS COUP MESSAGES 2, 4, AND 5, FOUR  
AMCITS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WERE CAUGHT AT AROUND 12:30 4 FEBRUARY IN  
THE CROSSFIRE BETWEEN LOYAL SECURITY ELEMENTS OUTSIDE "LA  
CASONA", THE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, AND REBELS WHO HAD  
TAKEN IT. THIS INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO THE MSG BY MR.

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[REDACTED] AT 1:20 A.M. 4 FEBRUARY. THE  
REPORT WAS HANDED TO THE CONSUL GENERAL BY THE MARINE  
SECURITY GUARD ON DUTY UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE EMBASSY AT  
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AROUND 2:30 A.M. CONGEN IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED [REDACTED]  
PHONE AT HOTEL EUROBUILDING AND DETERMINED THAT [REDACTED]  
AND [REDACTED] WERE REFUGED IN PRIVATE HOMES NEAR THE  
SCENE AND THAT [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WERE UNACCOUNTED FOR. CONGEN  
LATER TALKED BY PHONE TO [REDACTED] WHO DESCRIBED THE  
INCIDENT. [REDACTED]  
BECAUSE SHE HAD TO EXPOSE HERSELF TO FIRE TO COME TO THE  
PHONE IN HER PLACE OF REFUGE.

2. [REDACTED] RELATED THAT SHE WAS IN THE SECOND OF TWO

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CARS ENROUTE HOME FROM A RESTAURANT. [REDACTED] WAS IN THE LEAD CAR. WHEN THEY CAME UPON SOME DISIP VEHICLES IN THE STREET NEAR "LA CASONA", BOTH CARS WERE ALLOWED TO PASS. WHEN THEY CAME UPON SOME SECURITY PERSONNEL LAYING ON THE STREET FIRING INTO LA CASONA, THE SECOND CAR, A TOYOTA LAND CRUISER DRIVEN BY [REDACTED] WAS STOPPED. [REDACTED] WAS REMOVED FROM THE CAR AND SEARCHED. AT THAT TIME, A DISIP VEHICLE PROBABLY OF THE RIOT CONTROL VARIETY ([REDACTED] DESCRIBED IT AS A "BOMB SHOOTING VEHICLE"), FIRED ON THE SECOND CAR. [REDACTED] RAN, SEEKING REFUGE IN A NEARBY HOUSE. [REDACTED] ALSO FOUND REFUGE IN A HOUSE. BOTH REPORTED IN TO [REDACTED] BY PHONE. [REDACTED] AND THE OTHER TWO AMERICANS WERE UNACCOUNTED FOR UNTIL THEY WERE REPORTED SAFE TO AN EMBOFF SHORTLY AFTER 6:00 A.M. (MESSAGE 5, PARA 6). DURING THE COURSE OF THE MORNING, [REDACTED] REPORTED FURTHER THAT THAT THEY HAD GONE TO "CLINICA SANTA CECILIA" FOR EXAMINATION. ACCORDING TO MR. [REDACTED] WAS TREATED FOR MINOR SHRAPNEL WOUNDS.

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3. AROUND 3:00 P.M. ON THE 4TH, CONGEN RETURNED A CALL  
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FROM [REDACTED] WHO COMPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY HELPFUL TO HER SINCE IT DID NOT SEEK HER OUT AT THE HOTEL TO DEBRIEF HER AND DID NOT HELP HER COMMUNICATE WITH THE U.S. SHE INVOKED THE NAMES OF THE [REDACTED] TO DEMONSTRATE HER IMPORTANCE. SHE ENDED THE CONVERSATION WARNING THAT WE WOULD HEAR FURTHER FROM HER. SHE DID NOT RETURN LATER CALLS TO HER HOTEL ROOM TO SEE HOW WE COULD HELP FURTHER. SHE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NOT SENT THE MARINES TO RESCUE [REDACTED] AS THE LATTER ALLEGED THE CONGEN PROMISED WHEN HE CALLED HER IN HER PLACE OF REFUGE. IN FACT, HE CALLED [REDACTED] TO FIND OUT HOW SHE WAS AND TOLD HER TO SIT TIGHT UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIED. ONCE THEY WERE LOCATED AND REPORTED SAFE WE SAW NO NEED FOR FOLLOW UP. WE COULD NOT HAVE TRAVELLED SAFELY TO THE HOTEL OR THE CLINIC. WHEN [REDACTED] REPORTED THE WOMEN SAFE, NO OTHER ASSISTANCE WAS REQUESTED. WE ASSUME [REDACTED] WAS REACTING TO THE TRAUMA SHE HAD JUST ENDURED AND WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO BLAME FOR IT.

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4. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER AMCITS ENDANGERED SERIOUSLY BY THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN CARACAS, REPORT [REDACTED] COMPLAINT FOR THE RECORD TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND TO ANY

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INQUIRIES. (0929J) SKOL

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